

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes 1/17/18
Arlington Senior Center, 8-10 pm

Present: Co-Chairs Mel Goldsipe, Christine Carney, Commissioners Sharon Grossman, Gary Horowitz, Christopher Huvos, Naomi Greenfield, D'ondria Maxwell, William Logan, Sheri Baron, David Swanson

Absent: Commissioners Nick Minton, Kristina Fontanez

Guests: Betsy Carlton-Gysan, Naresh Kachoria, Kristen Bauer

Meeting called to Order at 8:05 p.m.

1) Citizen Open Forum:

Guest Naresh Kachoria gave commission an overview of his organization, Step Up International and its story series Walk A Mile. Walk a Mile is a series of live storytelling events to "inspire action and bridge the gap between empathy and action." The 2018 planned events are: gender identity in March, overcoming addiction in June, and faith & identity in October. AHRC and Naresh discussed collaborating on the October event and will continue to explore potential partnership. Commissioner Goldsipe will explore whether the in-development Rainbow Commission would be a good partner for the March event.

2) Review and approve minutes:

A motion to accept the 12/20/17 minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Horowitz and seconded by Commissioner Greenfield; all in favor except for Commissioner Baron who abstained.

3) Correspondence received:

A voicemail was received by a woman on Mountain Avenue who is concerned about development in her neighborhood. Commissioner Carney returned the call and discussed the situation. The woman is pursuing legal action against the developer and chose not to file a complaint with the AHRC.

Commissioner Horowitz received an anti-bullying report.

4) Incidents & Complaints:

APD Police Chief Ryan notified the AHRC of an assault and battery at the Mobil Station on Massachusetts Avenue. The altercation between a customer and station employee included anti-Muslim slurs. The police are continuing their investigation and the AHRC will request the report. Incident #: 18001267

Commissioner Carney continued to follow up with Rev. Crawford of Church of Our Saviour on a report received Fall 2017 about a woman being evicted from her home. The woman does not want to communicate directly; Commissioner Carney will

continue to follow up with Rev. Crawford.

Commissioner Logan is continuing to follow up with a group home on Willow Court about incidents involving a resident.

5) Follow up on December agenda items:

- Logo – AHRC and arl4all: Commissioner Maxwell is working with a graphic designer to get designs finalized. Will report back at next meeting.

6) School Initiatives:

- a) Colonial Day/Indigenous education programs and initiatives:

Commissioner Greenfield is continuing to gather information and will report back next meeting. Commission will discuss whether applying for an AEF grant is appropriate.

- b) Lesley Ellis School inquiry: Commissioner Greenfield will continue to follow up.

- c) Guidelines for Responding to Hate Incidents in Arlington Public Schools:

Commissioner Fontanez wrote a cover letter to accompany the draft Guidelines. The letter will be reviewed at the next AHRC meeting.

- d) Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee: Commissioner Huvos reported back on meeting from 1/8/18. There is now a membership list with professions and affiliations. The Advisory Committee discussed recruitment and retention of school employees of color. Commissioner Huvos will request a report on these activities to share with the AHRC.

7) Update on Commission opening.

Betsy Carlton-Gysan will appear before the Board of Selectmen at the Jan. 22nd meeting to discuss her nomination for the opening. The Town Manager is currently accepting applications for an expected opening.

8) Cultural Competency Training Update

AHRC commissioners will take part in training on 2/26 and 2/27 from 7:30-9:30. HHS Director Bongiorno will provide specific attendance details.

9) Budget for Next FY. The draft was shared with the AHRC. Commissioner Baron will present the budget to the town Finance Committee. She will work with Commissioner Carney to prepare past actuals.

10) Sub-committee Reports

Anti-Defamation League partnership: Commissioners Grossman and Horowitz, and Betsy Carlton-Gysan met with Daniel Levenson of the Anti-Defamation League and Heidi Hoffman to discuss the planned upcoming event series. AHRC will make sure to have both sizes of Hate Has No Home Here signs at the event. Target dates are April 10 or March 27 for the first event on hate symbols. See sub-committee minutes for full details.

11) Elect Co-chairs for 2018

Commissioner Horowitz moved to nominate Commissioner Greenfield as 2018 Co-chair. Commissioner Baron seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Grossman moved to nominate Commissioner Swanson as 2018 Co-chair. Commissioner Baron seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Many thanks were given to 2017 Co-chairs Carney and Goldsipe for their hard work and leadership.

12) Community events and info:

On January 24th, the Arlington Center for the Arts is hosting an event with the founder of the Pussyhat Project to discuss craftivism and her experience. There will Q&A from 7:30-8:30 followed by a reception from 8:30-9pm.

March's community read is Wonder by R.J. Palacio.

Commissioner Logan made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Commissioner Horowitz; unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Carlton-Gysan